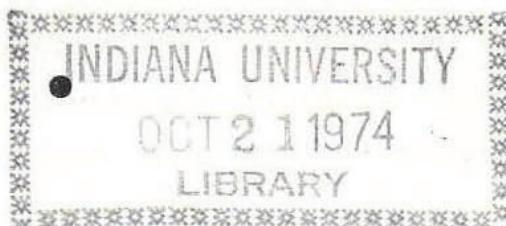


PUBLIC DEPT

A  
**Preliminary Report  
on the atrocities  
committed by the  
Congolese Army  
against the white population  
of the  
Republic of the Congo  
before the intervention  
of the Belgian Forces.**

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## REPORT BY H. EXC. L. MERCHIERS MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF BELGIUM

On July 28, 1960, MR. L. MERCHIERS, Minister of Justice of Belgium gave to the press the following preliminary report on the atrocities committed by the Congolese Army against white people in the Congo, which motivated the intervention of the Belgian Armed Forces.

When Mr. Kanza, Minister of the Congo to the U.N., appeared before the Security Council, he qualified these atrocities as PETITS ABUS, minor abuses. When Mr. P. Lumumba, Prime Minister of the Congo, addressed the press at the U.N., he declared that possibly a few European women had "been disturbed in their honor". Later, when in Canada, Mr. Lumumba stated that nothing of the kind had happened. When he was confronted with the declaration of the American Ambassador to the Congo Mr. C. Timberlake who, on his arrival from the Congo, declared that American missionaries had been raped by Congolese, Mr. Lumumba, according to the press, denied this.

In the meantime, the press reported that 291 Belgian women had testified to the ignoble treatment they had suffered, that about 300 men had been brutalized and beaten and that about twenty men had been killed.

Events in the Congo, following the mutiny of the Congo Armed Forces, rapidly took a tragic turn, which forced the Belgian Government to take urgent measures to protect white residents, both Belgian and foreign. These measures were dictated by human considerations and the imperative duty to save men, women and children who found themselves in immediate and extreme danger.

These measures had become for the Belgian Government an inescapable moral duty following the mutiny of the Congo Armed Forces which were in charge of maintaining order in the country.

A number of Congolese leaders have tried to mislead world opinion by casting doubts on the tragic reality of the facts. In view of this, the Belgian Government decided that it was its urgent duty to inform the world about the acts of violence and the atrocities that have taken place.

In relation to the scope of the mutiny, the number of persons killed seems to have been relatively small, at least on the basis of the information that is at present available. It is impossible to say at this stage how many of the people that are missing, were killed.

On the other hand, the acts of abasement of human dignity, of humiliation, of the most extreme actions against mankind and the civilized conception of human values, were the rule, as if there had been given an order to do all that was possible to humiliate men and women but to avoid before world opinion, the reproach of massacres.

The Belgian Government intends to bring all the facts to light. By Royal Decree of the 16th of July 1960, a Commission of Inquiry was created, in charge of investigating all the acts of violence perpetrated against human beings in the Congo since the day when Belgium freely and generously granted independence to that country.

In order to ensure the objective and independent character of the Commission, it is composed exclusively of high judges of Belgian courts. It is presided over by a Counselor of the *Cour de Cassation*. Its three members are Counselors at the Courts of Appeal of the realm.

The Commission is not under the control of the Government: its sole obligation toward the authorities is to submit a report on its mission and findings. It has extensive powers and it can call on the cooperation of courts and judges in the country, on the police and even on private individuals.

Cases are investigated by judges, public prosecutors, members of the bar, as well as by the usual personnel of the police and the gendarmerie.

Some inquiries are conducted by women investigators who are in charge of collecting information of a very personal and delicate nature: women judges, women inquirers, social assistants and women doctors.

All these steps were taken to enable victims and witnesses to be heard at home or at a place of their own choice, with the tact and discretion required by the situation.

The Belgian radio has broadcast appeals to induce victims and witnesses who were not approached by the investigators, to take the initiative of making a statement either in writing to the Commission of Inquiry, Palace of Justice Brussels, or of getting in touch directly with the police station of their own choice.

The Commission is taking every precaution to keep its investigation as discreet as possible. It refuses to communicate the names of the victims and the witnesses and other elements of information which might help to identify the persons that were questioned.

The preliminary results of the thorough and extensive investigation which the Commission is undertaking at present, are only cursorily described in the following pages.

The Commission started its investigation on the 17th of July, the flow of witnesses continues and what information we possess at the present moment is only a fraction of what we shall have the profound regret to learn later.

However, it must be stressed that the facts described in the present preliminary report are among those which the Commission can retain as established and proved as of now. Cases which left the slightest doubt have been omitted until they can be verified on the basis of evidence given by direct and impartial witnesses. On the other hand, it was not possible to publish in this preliminary report all the information which the Commission has already verified. A complete report may be published later, probably in the form of a White Book.

It is with reluctance that the often painful details that follow are published. The events are described as tactfully as possible. But in view of some of the statements which cast a doubt on the real savagery of which the whites in the Congo were the victims, the Belgian Government thinks that it is necessary to provide full information on some acts which have been proved for certain, even if the publication of them may seem offensive to certain codes of decency.

The report that follows only gives a fragmentary picture of what happened:

- 1) In the province of Leopoldville
- 2) In the Kasai province
- 3) In the Equator province

#### I. Province of Leopoldville

##### A. KISANTU and INKISI

Mrs. ..... was at home on the 5th of July, 1960, at Kisantu with her mother and four children. Around 4 p.m. African soldiers pushed her in a bedroom, and raped her, all four of them in turn. Between 7 and 8 p.m. twelve soldiers and an African gendarme came back to the house. After having pushed out the husband and the children, the twelve soldiers raped her in the same room. Altogether Mrs. ..... was raped sixteen times.

Miss ..... was at Inkisi with three friends in the night of the 5th to the 6th of July. African soldiers seized her, threw her on the floor and maltreated her over her whole body in view of raping her. A Congolese chauffeur succeeded in chasing them away. Miss ..... thus escaped raping, but is at present under treatment.

On the 6th of July, 1960, at Inkisi, Mr. ..... was slapped in the face and hit with rifle butts by African soldiers who took him to prison. With two other white men, whom he named, he was forced during more than one hour and a quarter to flatten coils of barbed wire with his bare feet.

When he was taken out of prison, he was hit in the spine with a rifle butt so hard that he fell on the ground, whereupon he was hit over the whole body in the same manner. After this, he was brutally dragged back to his home. During the night, African soldiers returned to his house and forced Mr. ..... and two other white men to stay with uplifted arms in the backyard of the house. Meanwhile, a number of soldiers attempted to rape the women in the house.

At Inkisi, on July the 6th, 1960, Mrs. ..... only just escaped raping, thanks to a nervous crisis of a friend, which frightened the assaulters.

On the 6th of July, 1960, at Inkisi, Miss ..... was at home around 8:30 p.m. with three friends, when five or six soldiers entered the house. Two or three of them dragged one of the young women in a room. When she cried for help, Miss ..... burst into the room where her friend was fighting the assaulters, but the soldiers grasped her and dragged her from one side to another of the room. They tried to rape her, tearing her clothes and hitting her. But they

did not succeed. A black policeman put an end to the scene. A few minutes later, a Congolese sergeant broke into the room and tried several times to rape one of the ladies in the presence of her four children. The lady fainted two or three times. The soldier thereupon attacked another young lady and dragged her into an adjoining room from which cries for help could be heard. The soldier remained about fifteen minutes with his victim.

#### B. BANZA-BOMA

On the 5th of July, 1960, Mrs. ..... was at Banza-Boma with a very small child. Mrs. ..... said that she was two months pregnant. Soldiers forced her to come out on the barza. She was raped by four soldiers in succession.

Mrs. ..... said that around the same time a lady, whose name she mentioned, was raped at Banza-Boma.

At Banza-Boma, on the 6th of July, 1960, around noon, Mrs. ..... was raped by a Congolese soldier at gunpoint, after her husband had been taken away by soldiers accompanied by the secretary of the ABAKO at Madimba.

#### C. MATADI

On the 8th of July, at Matadi, the Swiss subject N.... was arrested around ten o'clock by Congolese policemen. At the Damoi camp, he was hit in the back with rifle butts, while a policeman told him, literally: "that's independence". Later he was insulted, humiliated and hit with rifle butts.

At Matadi, on the 8th of July around 11 o'clock, 12 Congolese policemen arrived in the city and, threatening with rifles, took away the valid male population.

Mrs. ..... had taken refuge in a house with four other ladies and children. The policemen returned to loot the houses, smash the doors and break the windows. One of the Congolese policemen entered the room where the women and children were together. He took away a girl of 14 threatening with his gun. When she heard the cries of horror and pain of the child, Mrs. ..... realized that the policeman was raping her. After that, Mrs. ..... was also raped.

When Mrs. ..... cried, the policeman put his knife on her throat. Mrs. ..... noticed traces of blood offering proof that the girl was raped. After Mrs. ..... two other ladies were raped.

The fourth lady escaped thanks to the intervention of an African priest and a European.

On the 8th of July, at Matadi, Mrs. ..... was staying in a villa together with six other ladies. A Congolese patrol burst into the house,

smashing the door. Several of them were wearing civilian clothes, others were in uniform. Mrs. ..... was isolated in a bedroom and raped.

Mrs. Z. was at Matadi, on the 8th of July around one o'clock at noon, when three soldiers of the Force Publique came to search the house. One of them raped Mrs. Z.

#### D. SANDA

Mrs. ..... was arrested by approximately ten soldiers of the Force Publique at her home in the Seke-Banza territory on the 9th of July. She was taken to Sanda. She was assaulted, kicked over her whole body, and dragged over the ground by her hair. Around eleven o'clock at night, four soldiers, among whom a Congolese non-commissioned officer, forced her, together with another lady, to work for two hours in the savannah under the menace of their guns. They were severely injured.

Back home, the two ladies were separated. One of them was raped three times by the non-commissioned officer, according to what Mrs. ..... heard.

Mrs. ..... herself was raped three times by three different soldiers.

The following morning, Congolese soldiers twisted her hand, which is still bandaged.

A third and a fourth lady, the latter Portuguese, could avoid being raped by offering 500 francs to soldiers during the same night of the 8-9th of July. Like the others, they were forced to pluck weeds, under the menace of death.

#### E. ZANZI-KUA

Mr. ..... was staying at Malanga and during the night of the 11th of July fled in the direction of Angola. A convoy of seven cars was attacked at Zanzi-Kua near the offices of the ABAKO. One of the cars was carrying his wife and his two daughters. The car in front of his was stopped by Congolese. He tried to escape but was fired at several times. His wife was hit in the face by a bullet and dropped dead.

#### F. KIMPESE

At Kimpese, on the 13th of July, around six p.m. about twelve soldiers and a hundred civilians came to the house of Mr. ..... who was taken away by car with his wife and his three children below 16 in the direction of Leopoldville. The woman was separated from her husband, and in the car that took her away with her two youngest

children, she was raped three times by the Congolese soldiers. They hit the child aged 9, and undressed a baby of two "to make sure that it was a boy".

Mrs. ..... was raped at Kimpese in the night of the 13th to the 14th of July, at the same time as Mrs. B. She was raped a second time, at the same time as five other women. The following day, on the road to Thysville, the women were placed in a line, and raped a third time, some of them in the presence of their children.

Mrs. A was raped four times at Kimpese in the night of 13-14th of July, in the presence of her child aged 3.

Mrs. X was raped ten times at Kimpese in the night of the 13-14th of July, in the presence of her children, after her husband was roped and clubbed.

#### G. WONO (Thysville)

On the 13th of July, two families, among which that of Mrs. A. at Wono, took refuge in the savannah, but they were discovered by Congolese policemen. The men were roped and pushed with a pregnant woman on a truck. Four other women were pushed on another truck and transferred to Kimpese where the women were shut in a small room with five other women and four children. Around nine at night one woman was taken out and raped, later two more underwent the same treatment, and later still Mrs. A was raped. She was taken back to the cell, but taken out again three or four times by a policeman who raped her each time.

The following day the families were pushed on a truck. At a stop, the soldiers dragged women and children into the bush and raped the former. Mrs. A. was raped five or six times in the presence of her child and other children.

On the road to Thysville, she was hit in the right eye and still bears traces of it.

Mrs. A. was thus raped at least ten times.

Mr. ..... lived at Wono when on the 13th of July Congolese policemen broke into his house. They tied his hands together with telephone wire, and forced him on his knees. He was slapped in the face, clubbed and hit with rifle butts in the back and on the arms and kicked in his back and on his legs. Natives took part in this. His three companions received the same treatment. He was pushed on a truck by two Congolese, one of them holding him by the head and the other by the feet. At that moment the natives seemed to watch them with pity. While the women were pushed on the other truck, the whites were beaten again. The natives used violence trying

to put rotten manioc into their mouth. At every stop between Wono and Kimpese, the prisoners were stoned and beaten by the natives. The brother of Mr. ..... escaped death thanks to a member of the ABAKO.

At Zombe, the men were roped together three by three by the neck, and were once more beaten up by the natives and the policemen.

Imprisoned at Kimpese, they had to lie down on the cement floor. They were obliged to urinate in their trousers and forced to drink from a cup in which the blacks had urinated. They were repeatedly beaten until dawn.

During the transfer to Lukala, they were beaten once more by the soldiers, beaten again at Lukala, and sent to Thysville, where they were looked after by a doctor.

#### H. CAMP HARDY

On the fourth of July, after the four days of festivities which had marked the proclamation of independence, the whites noticed that excitement among the Congolese soldiers was growing. At night, this excitement had become disquietening.

Armed with machetes, the threatening Congolese soldiers told their officers that they were now the masters. After they had broken into the munition depots, they were in fact so.

On the 5th, the officers assembled on the hill overlooking the European city, with their wives and children. In the night of the 5-6th of July, whites were detained in their houses. On the 6th, a Congolese delegation, which included Mr. Diomi, a Congolese cabinet minister, tried to restore calm among the Congolese. It saw how three officers from another camp had been seriously wounded by the Congolese soldiers, and brought back, some of them in a state of collapse, on stretchers to Camp Hardy. The same evening there was an intervention of President Kasavubu and Premier Lumumba and the officers returned to their home.

From the 7th to the 10th, the whites resumed work normally, but the Congolese did not show up.

On the 11th, in the afternoon, armed black soldiers disarmed the officers and non-commissioned officers, put them in prison, after having taken away their possessions, and beaten them with rifle butts.

At the same time, the whites of Sonankulu were imprisoned in the Thysville goal. They were humiliated, stripped, spat in the face, beaten and ridiculed.

Finally, officers from the two camps and civilians among whom there were priests whose beard they attempted to burn, were locked

the same cell. They were left without anything to eat or to drink. It is true that some of them were given some water, but it seemed to come from the latrines. Others were permitted to have somebody send for food at home, but in the case of one soldier who fetched food, the wife of the officer who gave it to him was raped.

As to the acts of violence committed against men, following cases may be mentioned:

On the 6th of July, at Thysville, a man named C.... was taken by Congolese soldiers to Camp Hardy, under the hostile shouts of the population. He was beaten and, among others, he was hit with a rifle butt in the back.

The man named V.... was at Thysville, Camp Hardy, on the 5-6th July. He was put in prison for two days without food, under the menace of an automatic weapon, with his wife and three children below 12. After he was set free, he was arrested again on the 11th around 3 o'clock in the afternoon. He was stripped like the others, hit with fists, feet and rifle butts. Two of his companions were mortally wounded. For two more days they were left without drink or food. Soldiers attempted to drown them in a barrel filled with water, but a sergeant prevented them doing so.

Mr. ..... lived at the military Camp Hardy at Thysville. On the 6th of July, and again on the 11-12th of July, he was beaten by native soldiers.

M.... a Belgian officer, said that the situation deteriorated in the camp at Thysville on the 5th of July. The officers were practically prisoners, and two of them were beaten with sticks and stoned. On the 11th of July, M.... was put in a prison cell after having been beaten and hit with a rifle butt. For about three days, he and the other prisoners were without food or drink. At a certain moment, they received water, but M.... thinks that it was water from the latrines.

After the men had been made defenseless, the majority of the white women were raped.

Raping scenes have been described by the victims in lurid terms. The Congolese soldiers attacked all the women, even those that were visibly pregnant, women that had recently given birth to a child, and sick women. To get what they were after, they committed acts of violence and threatened with their weapons. In a great many cases, they threatened the children with death to make their mothers give in.

Some women were raped by a great many men in succession and could not tell the number of assaults committed against them. In many cases, these scenes took place in the presence of children and, in particular, in the presence of the children of the victims.

Some ladies sacrificed themselves to avoid the worst for their children or for a sick friend. Not all the girls escaped the soldiers' brutality.

It must be noted, that some of the victims lost conscience as a result of the acts of violence. When they thought that their victims were dead, the soldiers ran away.

Of the 29 white women that have already been questioned by the Commission, 19, or two thirds of them, have admitted that they were raped. This figure only includes the cases of rape certified by the statement of the victim, excluding the numberless attempts at rape.

Some women escaped the acts of violence, either by feigning absence (one of them shut herself up with her girl for two days in a washroom), or thanks to the intervention of a Congolese soldier who remained faithful.

These cases of rape present a serious danger of venereal contagion.

#### *A few concrete examples:*

As stated already, the man named V was at the Hardy Camp, Thysville, on the 5-6th of July. He was imprisoned for two days without food, with his wife and three children aged less than 12, under the menace of an automatic weapon. After he was freed, he was arrested again on the 11th of July, around 3 o'clock in the afternoon. He was stripped, like the others, and hit with fists, feet and rifle butts. Two of his companions were mortally wounded. For two more days, they were deprived of food and drink. Soldiers tried to drown him in a barrel filled with water, but a sergeant prevented them.

On the same day (11th of July), his wife was assaulted in her bedroom. She was hit with fists and rifle butts by six soldiers, who got hold of her and made deep cuts in her arms, of which the Commission has found traces. They stripped her of her underwear and raped her. Six soldiers held her tight and motionless, while an undetermined number of soldiers raped her. They stood in line while waiting for their turn. Her three children were present at the scene, crying loudly.

Other soldiers got hold of her daughter aged less than 12 and raped her several times.

Shortly afterwards, three soldiers again entered her room and raped Mrs. Z..... in turn. While one of them raped her, the two others held her motionless. The children were again present.

Shortly after they left, other soldiers came to the house and raped Mrs. Z in the same manner.

These scenes continued from dusk till dawn.

Six of the European women living in the same street had been raped in the same circumstances.

The following day, the soldiers came back, but they found the house barricaded by the women. They set fire to the curtains, but a Congolese sergeant-major stopped them and chased the soldiers away.

On the 13th, the soldiers again penetrated the house, but, despite the menace of weapons, Mrs. Z ..... fled to the house of a neighbor where her children were able to join her.

The child of 11 who was raped was not questioned by the Commission. Her state of health does not permit it for the moment.

On the 11th of July, Mrs. ..... accompanied by her husband and two children, left Malanga-Gare, from a point known as Bloc 110. They were arrested by civilians of the ABAKO, searched, imprisoned and beaten all night. They were all taken to Thysville, where they arrived on the 12th toward midnight. Mrs. ..... was alone in a cell with her children aged less than 7, when a group of about ten soldiers arrived. One of them held her by the arms, another by the legs, a third held his hand on her mouth to prevent her from screaming, a fourth pulled her hair and slapped her face. She was raped a dozen times in the presence of the children who huddled in a corner together. This scene lasted from 2 till 4:30 in the morning. The family was saved by a white doctor.

As told already, M.... who lived at the Hardy Camp at Thysville, was beaten twice by Congolese soldiers on the 6th and the 11-12th of July. His wife was the victim of acts of violence committed by four African soldiers. On the 11th, toward 6 p.m. two soldiers attempted to rape her. A third soldier succeeded. This lady said that nine tenths of the white women at Camp Hardy were the victims of similar brutalities.

Mrs. ..... was on the 11th of July at the home of Mrs. B.... at Camp Hardy, Thysville, with a small child, while her husband had been put in prison by Congolese soldiers. The latter broke into the house, where, besides the aforementioned ladies, were Mrs. C., seven months pregnant, and Mrs. D. with her small child. Mrs. A. was taken back to her house. Soldiers started a fight to know who would have Mrs. A., who finally was handed over to two of them who belonged to the transport unit of Camp Hardy, and who both raped her. Later, she was taken back to Mrs. D.'s home, where she met Mrs. E., F. and G. who told her that they had also been raped.

In the evening of the 12th of July, these ladies were taken back to their respective homes, except Mrs. B who later told Mrs. A that

she had been raped by a Congolese soldier while she was alone. Mrs. A found her home looted.

Mrs. A was at Camp Hardy at the home of Mrs. B with Mrs C, where all three of them were raped by Congolese soldiers in the presence of the children. The soldiers also scratched and hurt a baby of nine months old.

Mrs. A was raped 10 to 15 times during two consecutive nights.

Mrs. ..... was at Camp Hardy at Thysville. She was pregnant. When she came home, two Congolese soldiers were waiting for her, and, menacing her with their weapons, pushed her into a room. One of them raped her once, the other twice. While one of them was raping her, the other was pointing his gun at her. Mrs. ..... is in danger of miscarriage.

On the 11th of July, toward 8 p.m., in the Thysville military camp, 5 or 6 soldiers searched the house of Mrs. .... The first one who raped her, had previously taken her by the throat. She was raped by 4 soldiers. The fourth stayed with her all night to protect her against new assaults.

Mrs. ..... was at Camp Hardy, Thysville, on the 11th of July. Toward 9 in the evening, Congolese soldiers of the transport unit broke into her house. They hit her with rifle butts, put an automatic gun in her neck and a bayonet on her chest. Three or four times attempts were made to rape her. Soldiers pulled hair from her pubis and tried to make her swallow it. A soldier thrust his fingers, covered by something rough like sand-paper, into her. She was severely torn and fainted without recovering until the next day. She presumes that they continued their acts of torture. The scene took place in the presence of her son aged eleven.

Mrs. ..... is still under medical care.

Mrs. ..... was raped at gunpoint in Camp Hardy, Thysville, on the 11th of July, toward 6 o'clock at night, immediately after the arrest of her husband.

Toward 8 a.m. on the same day, the Congolese soldiers returned and again raped Mrs. ..... as well as a neighbor, threatening them or their children. The raping continued during the whole night of 12-13th of July. The scenes often took place in the presence of the children, among whom two boys of 17 and 13 and a girl of 12.

The sentries, who were posted by a non-commissioned Congolese officer for the protection of the women, were the first to break into the house.

Mrs. ..... was at Camp Hardy, Thysville, when her husband was

arrested on the 11th of July by Congolese soldiers. They searched the house and attempted to rape her in front of her son, aged 4, saying: "We are going to beat up your husbands and have a good time with you". She was hit with a rifle butt, and one of the children bit a soldier's leg. Three soldiers slapped the boy and put a bayonet to his heart, menacing him with their rifles, ready to shoot. They tried to rape Mrs. ....

The soldiers burnt the hand of the mother with a lighted cigarette to show the child what they would do if she continued to put up resistance.

The boy was finally taken to another room. Mrs. .... was raped continually from 6 till 8:30 p.m. At least a dozen Africans abused her. They left when they thought she would die.

On the 11th of July, Mrs. .... and her family were in a convoy of seven cars with people being evacuated towards Angola. At 8 in the evening, the last four cars were stopped at Sensikua (Songolo). The captives were taken to the ABAKO offices. All of them were beaten by civilians with belts, feet and fists. Mrs. .... was dragged by the hair from one room to another. The following day they were taken by Congolese soldiers to Camp Hardy, Thysville.

In the night of 12-13th of July, Congolese soldiers attempted to rape Mrs. A, as well as Mrs. B and Mrs. C in the sentries' room, in the presence of their children. Some of them held the women, while others attempted to rape them. One of the soldiers threatened Mrs. A. with his bayonet. Mrs. A.'s resistance was broken and she was finally raped by one soldier, and taken to a cell with her two young children who witnessed the scene. The soldiers returned to take away the children, whom, it seemed to her, she heard crying in the sentries' room. In the cell she was raped again by two soldiers. One held her by the throat, while the other abused her. At one moment, six soldiers were surrounding her. One of the soldiers who raped her, violently grasped and twisted her right breast. She was shouting at the top of her voice. Later, her children were brought back to her. She could hear her neighbor crying loudly, Mrs. B, who was the victim of the same acts of brutality.

A soldier returned to the cell, and exhibiting himself, demanded that Mrs. A. yield to him. He threatened to take her little girl away, if she did not consent. Nevertheless, she resisted, but was slapped repeatedly in the face.

Mr. .... confirmed that part of his wife's statement relating to the scenes they experienced together, and said that the men had

been maltreated. He himself had been beaten, his shoes stolen and he was bound hands and feet. He was also beaten by members of the ABAKO.

He heard the cries of women, he recognized the sound of his wife's voice and realized that she was being raped.

Also at Camp Hardy, Thysville, in the night of the 11th of July, a group of about ten soldiers, some of them drunk, came to the house of lieutenant A. where they found his wife, Mrs. B. and a family of friends C.

The soldiers got hold of Mrs. A and Mrs. B, and took them to the room where their children were sleeping. Mrs. B was raped, even though she was pregnant for five months, by two soldiers in succession, who had threatened her children aged 5 and 3 so that she could fear for their lives. Mrs. B is at present receiving medical treatment. In the same room, Mrs. A was raped by soldiers on the bed in which the children slept. Mrs. C, who was taken to another room, was raped after soldiers had begun to hit her baby 9 months old.

Mrs. A the wife of a Belgian officer at Camp Hardy, Thysville, gave life to a baby on the 2nd of July and left the hospital to return home. On the 11th, her husband and other Europeans were arrested by Congolese soldiers. She stayed at her home with three ladies and four children. Congolese soldiers came to search the house. They told Mrs. B. and Mrs. C. to go home. One of them slapped Mrs. B. in the face, and tightly pressed her throat with a muffler, before taking back Mrs. C.

Mrs. A. heard loud cries and learned that the soldier had tried to rape Mrs. C. Around midnight, after several attempts by Congolese soldiers to enter the house, six soldiers broke the window panes and penetrated into the bedroom where they found Mrs. A. and her children, and Mrs. C. and her child. They took away the child from Mrs. C. and gave it to Mrs. A., dragged the mother in the living room from where loud crying could immediately be heard. While Mrs. A. was in bed with two children, the soldier made four attempts to rape her, even though she was still torn and had several stitchings following her recent confinement.

Even though the act could not be fully perpetrated in view of the state of the victim, rape remains an established fact. Mrs. A. said that during the night soldiers slapped her little boy aged 3½ because he cried. Meanwhile, Mrs. C., had come back, she went to sleep with Mrs. A., and lost consciousness. Later she declared that five or

six soldiers had raped and beaten her. Mrs. D., told her later that although two months pregnant and under medical care, three soldiers had raped her. Mrs. A., heard from Mrs. E., that this woman had been raped countless times by the soldiers.

Mrs. X., was at Camp Hardy at Thysville, when 17 women and children were evacuated by train on July 7. On the 11th, her husband was arrested. She was alone with her two children and was harassed several times by the soldiers. Her window panes were broken, soon a soldier crashed into the room, threw her on the floor and raped her. Another soldier came to the house the same day and raped her too. About noon, five soldiers arrived. They pointed their bayonets at her chest, threatening to kill her. All five raped her. She was thus raped by seven soldiers.

On July 11, at about 6:30 p.m., Mrs. X., at Thysville, received soon after the arrest of her husband, the visit of soldiers who searched the house and took away the money. One of her friends who was present was raped by a soldier under threats. This person was raped twice more between the 11th and the 13th of July. Mrs. X., herself was raped on the morning of the 12th, although she was the mother of a six weeks' old child.

Mrs. X., lived with her husband, an officer, and her two children, 7 and 10 years of age, at Thysville. On July 11th, five soldiers rushed into the house. Three of them pushed her into the bedroom and each one raped her. They stole \$300, in Belgian francs. On July 12, Mrs. X., went to Mrs. B., where she found Mrs. C. Five soldiers broke the door down with their bayonets. Mrs. A., was raped by 2 soldiers, one of them was among those who had raped her the day before. She heard that Mrs. C., was raped also. She thinks—as nearly all the victims state—that a very great number of white women in Camp Hardy were raped. They are at present under medical care.

On the 12th, the civilians were released thanks to the intervention of Minister Ganshof van der Meersch and Mr. Diomi, Congolese Cabinet Minister.

On the 13th, the officers were released thanks to Minister Bom-boko and to a newspaper man—a German, it seems. A convoy reached Leopoldville the same day. On the road, the refugees were injured and stoned. The soldiers first tried to send the men back to Thysville: a little further, they attacked the convoy and shot at it. The refugees were able to reach the airport thanks to the Belgian paratroopers.

## II—Kasai Province.

### *Luluabourg.*

In the afternoon of July 9th, the soldiers of the Force Publique at the General Gilliard Camp, seized the munitions dump; they disarmed the officers and the non-commission Belgian Officers and pushed them all, with their families, into the mess hall. Some of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers were molested and beaten. A lady and an adjutant who were driving to the camp, their car full of children, were subjected to gunshots.

Early in the evening of the 9th, a Belgian civilian who was inside the camp, was seriously wounded by a shot fired by a Congolese soldier. Taken to the hospital of Luluabourg, he was on the operating table when the soldiers attacked the hospital twice with machine guns. The surgeon who was operating on the wounded man could not give him the necessary care. A little later, about 20 men who were under siege in the Imokasai building, rushed out and succeeded, under the fire of soldiers, to evacuate the sick and the personnel of the hospital. After they left, it was completely ransacked. The wounded man died soon after his transfer from the hospital to the Imokasai building.

Immediately after the first turmoil, about 1500 Europeans re-trenched themselves in the Imokasai building; they soon were besieged by the Congolese troops who began to fire on them around 8 p.m. (July 9). The siege, with intermittent gunshots and machine gun fire, went on until the arrival of the paratroopers on the evening of the 10th. Some of the besieged were wounded. During the siege, the soldiers asked the besieged to surrender their arms but they refused.

A few Belgian members of the Congolese Security Service and their families had taken refuge in the Building of the Service at 9 p.m. They also were attacked by gunfire. Other Europeans had taken refuge in the Pax hospital.

On July 10th, at 7 a.m., the doors were demolished and the place was ransacked by a Congolese military patrol. A non-commissioned soldier coming into a room where he found Mr. X., fired twice. Mr. X., was hit in the belly while he had his hands in the air and while he cried: "Don't shoot, we have no arms".

As for the families who could not reach the Imokasai building, many of them were subjected to grave maltreatment. At the end of the afternoon of the 9th, jeeps and trucks with soldiers had spread through the town; the soldiers shot at passing cars, they looted houses and maltreated Europeans.

At about 7 p.m., a European civilian who was standing on his

doorstep, was killed by two shots, fired by four soldiers in a jeep. Two families, comprising several children each, were molested and beaten. Mrs. Z., was raped under threats by two policemen, in her house. Then the two families were taken to the military camp. The cars stopped in front of the prison and a crowd gathered, the soldiers declared that the prisoners had shot at them. The crowd got excited, the two mothers were undressed, molested and beaten. They were imprisoned; the husbands were beaten, one of them still shows traces of the beatings. Mrs. Y., was taken out of her house and raped on the road, in the presence of her three children and her husband who had been beaten before. Other women, among them an old lady, were undressed, molested, and humiliated in public.

In the afternoon of July 10th, the Belgian paratroopers arrived in Luluabourg. The whites were evacuated partly that same day, partly the next day.

### III—Equator Province.

#### *Boende.*

Boende was the end of the road for several government officials and settlers of the region. The sector seemed quiet until the 10th of July. On the 11th, as a result of the bad news from Ikela, the settlers and the officials tried to evacuate the women and the children. The settlers planned to come back, the officials wanted to remain at their posts. Their families left from Djolu, Befale, Bokutola, Befori and Lingomo, but the Congolese had already put up roadblocks at the instigation of the Force Publique (army) in order to prevent the whites from leaving. All those who were stopped on the roads, even if they tried to avoid Djolu by going to Bangui (former French Congo) by way of Libenge or Lisala, were sent to Djolu by the soldiers of the Force Publique.

As soon as they were arrested, they were searched and robbed of their money and valuables. The men were allowed to keep their trousers, their shoes and shorts were taken away. They were bound tightly. Women and children were separated from the men. The number of prisoners at Djolu increased steadily. All of them were severely beaten by rifle butts, they were slapped and kicked, they were spat upon and injured by the soldiers, policemen, and also by civilian Congolese incited by the soldiers. Finally, the soldiers had to protect the prisoners against the native population who wanted to torture the white men and abuse the white women. The Congolese had herded together 40 white men, as many women and at least 8 children.

The imprisoned women were publicly raped, several of them with a child in their arms, surrounded by soldiers, policemen and negro civilians who all had penetrated into the cells.

Eight children were present, in tears, during these repeated rapes which went on the whole night of the 11th to the 12th of July, accompanied by armed menace; often the menaces were directed at the children in order to intimidate the mothers.

The wife of an official who resisted was knocked down by the Congolese.

At daybreak, the missionaries of Djolu who had also been arrested, arrived. There were three sisters, their clothes in shreds, their capes torn away, who had been maltreated. A special inquiry on this case is under way.

Some people arrived who had been wounded by firearms: a lieutenant and an official. A doctor was prevented from taking care of the lieutenant; later he received permission to do so, he put on a bandage but this was immediately torn off by a Congolese soldier who wounded the eyebrow of the injured man.

From the 12th of July, between 6 and 7 a.m., the transportation was done in the following manner: a dozen men, tightly bound so that when one of them fell, all the other followed. They were beaten. The same day, everybody was put on trucks. A lady suffered from a heart condition: a doctor finally was authorized to help her. When he arrived, he was driven away. They left for Mompono and arrived about 3 p.m. On the road, the native population insulted the prisoners, spat on them, threw sand and sticks. Finally the Congolese soldiers who often stopped the convoy, were forced to protect the prisoners.

At Monpono the men were again locked up. At the prison there was a colonist wounded by three bullets in the thighs and one in the arm.

About 6 p.m., the prisoners were untied by a Congolese commander, taken to Boende on the 13th and to Leopoldville on the 14th.

#### *A few testimonies:*

Trouble started again on July 11, in the region of Djolu. In a mission post of that region, Father X received a number of refugees, among them a man seriously wounded by a shot from a Congolese soldier. On July 12, Father X was arrested by two soldiers; he was beaten on his back and knees. He was forced to lie flat and later on to run. The refugees and the nuns were forced out of the Mission. The same day, July 12, the nuns, according to the testimony of one of them, were put in jail with two ladies and a baby. Negro soldiers attacked one nun and after a fierce struggle, raped her. Later, they attacked the second nun. Two men trampled her under foot.

The nun lost consciousness and another nun said the sister had died. The soldiers were frightened and fled while the other soldiers reproached the attackers for having killed, which was not allowed. At 5:30 a.m., the white prisoners, men and women, were taken to another prison. All of them were in the nude, the nuns and missionaries included, their hands bound in the back. They were locked up in a hut where already twenty women and children had arrived. The soldiers asked why the nuns were not members of the party of Lumumba and if they had sexual intercourse with the missionaries. They promised each sister a soldier for the night. Trucks brought the captives to Monpono under the insults of the black population.

On the 12th of July, Mrs. A., 4 months pregnant, was standing with her two young children, in a group of men and women: a number of drunken soldiers arrived. They bound the men, hand and foot, and beat them. There were five women and seven children. The women were taken to a dark room. All of them were raped several times. Mrs. A., was raped 10 times. 3 children, aged 7 to 9, were present at these scenes. Later, Mrs. A., met nuns whose clothes had been torn and who told her that they had been raped at the Mission.

When Mrs. A., was taken from Djola to Mompoka, the group of whites was attacked by an excited crowd. Several Europeans were wounded by the natives, armed with spears.

Mr. X., of the Djola district declares—his statement being confirmed by his wife—that his wife was arrested by drunken soldiers on July 11, locked in a jail, together with four other ladies, while 3 sisters were imprisoned elsewhere.

The five ladies were raped, each of them at least 20 times, in the presence of 7 children. Mrs. X., having resisted was horribly beaten with a rifle butt and with fists all over her body. One of her companions offered herself to avoid her daughter, age 8, being raped.

The soldiers came in relays. Black policemen joined the rappers.

Meanwhile, Mr. X., together with 20 other men and two missionaries were imprisoned. The men were bound, lying on the ground. All of them were hit fifty times with rifle butts. Mr. X., witnessed the following scene: a Belgian officer was wounded. A doctor wanted to operate. In the midst of the operation, he was hit by a rifle butt. The officer howled in pain: the sergeant who had thrown the doctor to the ground hit the officer in the face with his rifle.

While the whites were taken by truck from Djola to Monpono, Mrs. X had a heart attack. A doctor tried to take care of her, a black sergeant threw her from the truck. She remained unconscious for a long time.

On the evening of the 12th, Mr. X., was allowed to visit his wife. She had lost her memory. Her memory returned partially when she returned to Belgium.

An officer at Djola, was attacked by soldiers of the Force Publique. He came to the assistance of the white people and was shot at by an automatic gun. He was wounded in the thigh. He was kicked and wounded in the face by rifle butts. Notwithstanding his wounds, he had to walk for a while to the Dongo prison where he was bound and locked up. The black soldiers prevented the doctor from taking care of him. The women in the group (eight of them, 5 among them nuns) were raped by the soldiers. The men were brutalized.

Mr. X., states also that several whites he had seen had been tatooed by the Negroes: they had cut the white men with a knife, making a vertical mark between the eyes.

In the night of July 11th, the Djola post was evacuated by convoy. The convoy was stopped for a moment and the men were separated from the women. The women were brutalized and raped all night by the soldiers and the police. One woman who resisted was knocked down in the presence of her eight children. At dawn, three nuns joined the group. Two had been raped. Mrs. Y., declared that she had been raped at least 20 times. During that time, the men, bound hand and foot, were beaten.

Mr. Z., head of a plantation, states that on July 11th, he was taken to the prison of Bokokolo. Women and children were separated from the men. The men were bound, hand and foot, and then roped together: they were maltreated all night long. They heard the cries of the women and children, and of a lieutenant of Djola who was seriously wounded. The black soldiers prevented a doctor from taking care of him; they beat the patient and the doctor with rifle butts.

On July 12th, the nuns of the Mission arrived in a pitiful state. They had been raped. A missionary who was with them, had seen the soldiers enter a place where women were hiding and come out later boasting to the husbands that they had had intercourse with their wives. The same day, the prisoners were taken by convoy to Monpono: on the road, at all the villages, roadblocks were put up to permit the local population to beat and insult the prisoners.

On the evening of July 11th, Mrs. G. and her family left Djolu. Arrested by negro soldiers, they were taken to the Djolu prison, men were separated from women. A hundred to a hundred and fifty negroes (soldiers, policemen and civilians) came to the prison. Mrs. G., was standing up with her 2 months' baby in her arms. In that

position, Mrs. G., held by negroes, was raped by others, all the while menaced by rifles. During that night, Mrs. G., was raped about 20 times. She was hurled on the floor, the negroes threw themselves on her. They tore her underclothes, tore at her pubic hair. The other women were also raped in the presence of their children. During the night of July 11th, several negroes tried to rape a seven year old girl. Then Mrs. G., was again raped. All that time, the prisoners were menaced by guns. Mrs. G.'s baby was so maltreated that the mother considers it a miracle that it is still alive. The negroes threatened to cook mother and child and eat them.

During that same night, Mrs. G., was authorized to look for food and care for the baby and for her husband who was locked up with other men in a special room. She saw there a number of men, bound hand and foot, roped together, their faces bloody, half naked. Several had broken teeth. In order to feed them, she had to put a bottle to their lips and she had to give them soaked bread. A lieutenant, wounded in the leg by gunfire, was lying in a pool of blood, his eyes and teeth bloody.

Mrs. G., came back then, under armed guard, to the place where the women were kept: the rapes went on; at dawn she was taken to another room where she was raped again.

A number of nuns joined the prisoners. Three among them said that they had been raped. On the 12th of July, at about 8 a.m., the prisoners were led to the camp of Monpono. On the road, they were attacked by natives who shot arrows at them, throwing spears and sticks. Three soldiers again raped her on the road.

Mr. X., states that on July 11th, a convoy of cars was organized in Djolu, in order to evacuate the women and children. The first car was able to escape. The second one was destroyed by gunfire and the driver was hit. The third one was halted. The soldiers stole everything that the occupants had in their possession. The men were hit with rifle butts, bound together, hands behind their backs. At regular intervals, the soldiers loaded their guns, menaced the prisoners and hit them. Civilian negroes did the same.

White women were locked up opposite the place where the occupants of the car were held. About 10 p.m., the men heard screams and shouts. Next morning, the white women declared that all night long they had been raped an undetermined number of times by soldiers and civilians. According to the testimony of every white woman, all of them were raped at least 20 times, in the presence of their children.



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